

# WORK ZONE

## REDUCING MISHAPS BY 50%

### All-Terrain Vehicles

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that ATV-related injuries in the United States have doubled in a recent five-year period, and deaths also continue to climb. ATV injuries requiring an emergency-room visit increased by more than 100 percent from an estimated 52,800 in 1997 to 110,100 in 2001.

In this same period, the estimated number of ATV drivers increased 36 percent, driving hours grew 50 percent, and the number of ATVs increased 40 percent. Staffers at CPSC estimate there were 634 deaths related to ATVs in 2001, up from 291 deaths in 1997.

The major ATV manufacturers agreed in consent decrees in 1988 and in subsequent voluntary action plans not to make three-wheel ATVs. They also agreed to place engine-size restrictions on ATVs sold for use by children under 16 and to offer driver-training programs. This training, provided by the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, can include three family members but no children. Military sales also are excluded since the military purchases a small number of ATVs for a large number of uses.

#### Rules

- An ATV is not a toy. Children should not be permitted to operate one without specialized training, and then they should be allowed to only operate an ATV of an appropriate size (70 cc to 90 cc for children at least 12 years of age, more than 90 cc only for people at least 16 years of age).
- Wear appropriate riding gear: DOT- or Snell ANSI-approved helmet, goggles, gloves, over-the-ankle boots, long-sleeve shirt, and long pants.
- Read owners' manuals carefully.
- Never carry anyone else on ATVs because they are not made for multiple riders.
- Any added attachments affect the stability, operating and braking of an ATV. Just because an



attachment is available doesn't mean you can use it without increasing the risk of injury.

- Do not operate an ATV on streets, highways or paved roads.

#### Inspection Checklist

- Are tires and wheels in good condition?
- Are controls and cable operational?
- Does the chain have proper slack, and is it lubricated?
- Is riding gear available and worn?

#### Resources

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/540.pdf>
- <http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/agriatv.htm>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000901-d001000/d000976/2.html>